

Message Text

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52

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 T-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-01 L-02 PRS-01 PM-03

CIEP-01 USIA-04 RSR-01 EUR-10 AF-04 NEA-06 EA-13

INRE-00 /086 W

----- 052784

P R 141625 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6866

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1360

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CONSUMER COOPERATION ON ENERGY; BELGIUM

REF: STATE 44081

1. BELGIAN SHARE OUR CONCERN WITH WORLD- WIDE ENERGY SITUATION
BUT VIEW IT AS GLOBAL PROBLEM OVER WITH THEY HAVE MINIMAL CONTROL
OR INFLUENCE. BELGIANS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN IMPROVE-
MENT OF OVERALL RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE EAST PRODUCT DEVELOP-
MENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, E. G. NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND MORE EFFICIENT
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UTILIZATION OF EXISTING SUPPLIES.

2. GOB REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR DEFENSIVE CONSUMER COOPERATION WOULD PROBABLY BE RESERVED SINCE BELGIUM GENERALLY CAUTIOUS WHEN ARAB SENSITIVITIES ARE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) POSITION WOULD BE DETERMINING INFLUENCE. A LESS IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT GOB WRESTLING WITH INTERNAL PROBLEM OF PETROLEUM PRICES WHICH IS HIGHLY POLITICAL ISSUE HERE WITH RESULTING FRICTION BETWEEN GOB AND INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. ESSENTIALLY BELGIANS BELIEVE THAT THEIR MARGINAL ROLE AS RELATIVELY SMALL CONSUMER IS INEVITABLY SUBSUMED IN LARGER WESTERN EUROPEAN SITUATION.

3. GIVEN ABOVE, GOB REACTION TO POSSIBLE US PROPOSAL TO LEND SUPPORT TO OIL COMPANIES IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPEC LIKELY BE UNENTHUSIASTIC IN ABSENCE OF INTERNATIONAL CRISIS SITUATION. COOPERATION FOR PURPOSES OF EXPANDING ENERGY SUPPLY OR TO MORE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE EXISTING SUPPLIES LIKELY TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE, PARTICULARLY IF CLEARLY SEPARATED FROM OPEC- OIL COMPANIES NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, AS POINTED OUT ABOVE, BELGIANS WOULD PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH ANYTHING AGREED TO BY MAJOR EC PARTNERS EITHER IN EC ITSELF OR IN OECD. WITHIN EC OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT GOB WOULD BE ON THE SIDE OF RESTRAINT AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFRONTATION WITH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE01360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730330/aaaahvtr.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 44081
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971208
Subject: POSSIBLE CONSUMER COOPERATION ON ENERGY; BELGIUM
TAGS: ENRG, BE
To: BONN
EB
EC BRUSSELS
LONDON
OECD PARIS
OTTAWA
PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC
THE HAGUE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005